

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY

### 1. FPGEC Certification Program

In order to be eligible for licensure as a pharmacist in Virginia, graduates of foreign colleges of pharmacy must first obtain the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Committee (FPGEC) certification from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Virginia has no alternative to this process for certifying the equivalency of pharmacy education and proficiency in written and spoken English. The FPGEC certification shows the following:

- a. that the person is a graduate of a foreign college of pharmacy and that the educational and licensure credentials have been evaluated and found to be valid and substantively equivalent to those in the United States;
- b. that the person has successfully completed the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE).
- c. that the person has successfully completed the written and oral communication ability tests of English as follows:
  - **either** the Internet Based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) with a minimum passing score for each component as follows: Writing 24, Speaking 26, Listening 18, and Reading 21; **or**
  - both the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) with minimum scores of at least 550 for the paper TOEFL or 213 for the computer-based TOEFL, and 50 for the TSE.

### 2. Practical Experience Requirement

In order to be eligible for licensure as a pharmacist in Virginia, one must have obtained at least **1500 hours<sup>1</sup>** practical experience within the United States. **Prior to** gaining practical experience in Virginia for credit, a person must register with this Board as a "**pharmacy intern**"<sup>2</sup>. A person may only register and begin gaining the required hours after receiving FPGEC certification as explained in section 1, and the applicant must provide the Virginia pharmacy location where the experience is to be gained with the name of the supervising pharmacist. Once the practical experience has been obtained, the pharmacy intern must submit an affidavit<sup>2,3</sup> to the Board documenting the practical experience. These hours must meet the following requirements:

- a. At least 300 of the 1500 required hours must be in the area of prescription compounding and dispensing.
- b. Credit will not be given for more than 50 hours in any one week.
- c. A pharmacy intern shall be supervised by a pharmacist who holds an unrestricted pharmacist license, and the supervising pharmacist may only supervise one pharmacy intern during a time period.

### 3. A completed application.

Once the requirements of sections 1 and 2 above are completed, a person may submit an application for licensure as a pharmacist. If the application is approved, the applicant will be authorized to take NAPLEX (if applying for initial licensure by examination) and the Virginia Pharmacy Law Examination<sup>4</sup>.

- a. If applying for initial licensure in Virginia by examination, at least 30 days before the desired examination date, an applicant must submit the required fee with an "Application for Licensure As a Pharmacist by Examination<sup>2</sup>". The applicant may omit the college affidavit section on page 3.
- b. If applying to transfer a pharmacist's license from another state within the United States (Licensure by Endorsement), an applicant must go through NABP's license transfer process and, once the process is complete, submit NABP's "Official Application for Transfer of Pharmaceutic License". In order to be eligible to transfer a license from another state, an applicant must also have met the requirements of sections 1 and 2 above.

<sup>1</sup> Persons who graduated from a school of pharmacy before January 1, 2003 are only required to obtain 1000 hours practical experience within the United States.

<sup>2</sup> All forms are available on the Board of Pharmacy website under Forms and Applications at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy/default.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Practical experience gained in another state within the U.S. must be certified by that state's board of pharmacy and may require registration as a pharmacy intern with that state board. A temporary intern registration may be issued without a social security number **for 90 days only**.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia does not use NABP's MPJE examination to test for pharmacy law proficiency, but instead requires passing of its own pharmacy law examination that tests on state and federal pharmacy law.